

WHOLE NUMBER 12,658. QUERIES & ANSWERS.

WHAT THE "MADSTONE" IS AND ITS VALUE AS A REMEDIAL AGENT.

Virginia's Court System—Cause of the Aurora Borealis—The First "Signer." Game of Checkers.

To the Editor of the Dispatch: When the board of supervisors of a county have laid a levy for the taxes of the ensuing year in excess of what is needed to pay the actual expenses of the county, including State and school taxes, in their action in the matter final and beyond revision by any other tribunal, or is there any remedy to be resorted to by appealing to the county or circuit courts, or the Legislature, or anywhere else? If so, will you be kind enough to quote the sections of the Code of Virginia and latest Acts of Assembly or any other authority bearing on the subject, and greatly obliged.

Cartersville, Va. The Constitution and laws of Virginia define clearly the duty of the Board of Supervisors in reference to the county levy. See article 2 section 2 Constitution of Virginia; Code of Virginia 1887, sections 83, 84, and 87.

Before making a county levy it is the duty of the Board of Supervisors (1) to audit and settle the accounts of the county; (2) to fix the allowances of the county officers for the ensuing year and to make out an itemized estimate of the incidental and necessary expenditures of the county for that year. When this has been done the Board of Supervisors must fix the county levy for the ensuing year at an amount sufficient to pay any balance found due upon the settlement of the accounts of the county for the preceding year, to pay the allowances of the county officers, and to pay the incidental and necessary expenses of the county for the ensuing year.

Immediately after the county levy is made the law requires the Board of Supervisors to make out a statement showing the receipts and expenditures of the county for the preceding year, and also a statement showing the aggregate amount allowed to the officers of the county for the preceding year, and the incidental and necessary expenses of the county for that year.

These statements, which must contain each item of expenditure, are required to be posted at the front door of the courthouse and in each voting precinct of the county.

Section 811, Code of Virginia, 1887, provides for an appeal to the County Court whenever, in the opinion of the attorney for the Commonwealth, the county levy is illegal, or whenever six free-holders of the county shall require him to appeal from the order of the Board of Supervisors making the county levy. The appeal must be taken within thirty days after the order of the Board of Supervisors is made, and the County Court is authorized to reverse the order of the Board of Supervisors or to order a proper levy to be made.

The Board of Supervisors have no unlimited power of taxation. The power to tax is measured by the amount of the indebtedness of the county upon the settlement of the accounts of the preceding year, and by the necessary expenditures of the county for the ensuing year. It is within the province of the Board of Supervisors to determine what shall be the necessary expenditures of the county for each year, and within certain limits its action is final and cannot be revised by any other tribunal. But when the indebtedness of the county for the preceding year has been ascertained, and the amount of the necessary expenditures for the ensuing year has been determined, the Board of Supervisors has no power to order a county levy, except to pay such indebtedness and such expenditures. A levy for any other purpose, unless specially authorized by law, is illegal.

It follows, therefore, that if the Board of Supervisors fixes the county levy at an amount largely in excess of what is needed to pay the indebtedness of the county for the preceding year, and to pay the necessary expenditures of the county for the ensuing year, such levy is illegal, and will be set aside and annulled by the County Court, upon appeal, to the extent of such excess.

The "Madstone." PROFFITS, VA. Will you be so kind as to tell me if there is a kind of stone called madstone which is used for the bite of a mad dog? If so, please give me a full history of it in your next copy.

J. A. H. The madstone is a piece of stone of no specific kind, except that it is usually porous, which is popularly thought to be able to absorb the poison of hydrophobia when it is applied to the wounded place. No scientific authority considers it of value. Its apparent success is explained by the fact that in many instances where it has been used for the bite of a mad dog the dog has not been mad, and also by the fact that only a small proportion of persons bitten by dogs genuinely mad are liable to have hydrophobia. Even admitting that the stone can absorb its capacity in this respect is far inferior to that of a piece of sponge or a rag, and any other mode of action that may be attributed to it is merely imaginary.

RICHMOND, VA. To the Editor of the Dispatch: Please answer the following questions: 1. Where is the "madstone" found? Give description of same, and also tell me if you know of any one in the county that is the owner of one? A READER.

1. "Madstones" cannot be assigned to any scientific classification of rocks and minerals. They are pieces of stone selected originally by a believer in their alleged virtues according to ideas of his own, and may be of almost any kind. 2. Several years ago pieces of madstone were offered at an auction sale in this city, and perhaps some may now be here.

The Courts of Virginia. To the Editor of the Dispatch: Please be kind enough to mention in your "Query and Answer" column the various courts of Virginia, defining in a general way the jurisdiction of each.

The courts in Virginia are: 1. The County or City Courts; 2. The Circuit Courts; 3. The Supreme Court of Appeals. Each county has a county judge, and where the counties are small, and then one man may be judge of two counties. Each city has a Corporation or Hastings Court judge, and in addition Richmond has a Chancery Court and a Police Justice's Court. Other cities have Mayor's Courts. Furthermore, each city and county is in the circuit of some Circuit Court judge. Our highest court is the Supreme Court of Appeals which sits at Richmond, Wytheville, and Staunton.

To state the jurisdiction of each of these courts would require more space than we are able to give to this subject, and as to that we refer "Peregrinus" to the Code of Virginia, 1887.

Pay for What You Get. HAMPTON, VA., February 12, 1892. To the Editor of the Dispatch: Your article on "Pay for What You Get" is very good and strikes the nail on the head.

You say make a law that can and will be executed. That is what the oyster-men of this section want, and nothing else. Thanking you for your advocacy of such a law, I am yours respectfully, A. CORSON.

Some Deeds That Do Not Shed Their Horns. To the Editor of the Dispatch: With reference to your reply to "Rub," in "Queries and Answers in last Sunday's Dispatch," allow me to correct a mistake. I have been twenty years in "the glorious East," and even pretty much in "the glorious West," and I can vouch for the fact that the antelope, having shed its horns, becomes a deer, and the antelope, having shed its horns, becomes a deer.

Several species of antelope are known never to shed their horns. I have no book of natural history at hand, or I might supply the scientific names for the above, and might at the same time tell you of more varieties of the deer tribe who never lose their horns.

NEW YORK AFFAIRS. NEWS FROM THE BIG METROPOLIS BY COLONEL JOHN L. CROCKER.

Hill's Candidacy for the Presidency—Something About the Honorable and Their Bad Construction—Cody's Scheme.

(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.) New York, February 20.—Senator David B. Hill's open and direct candidacy for the presidency of the United States has resulted in stirring New York politics to the very depths. It is something of a curiosity to the presidential aspirants of the West, who are employed to shape ward caucuses and to secure district leaderships. Senator Hill does not sit back in calm dignity waiting to be invited to the presidency, but he goes out and seeks it and is not ashamed to do so. He has been five years ago to build up a political machine in this State. He has not ceased from that labor, and he is now the most perfect machine-like organization of any man in the country. When his State committee called a convention for the 21st of February to nominate delegates to the Democratic National Convention a wild word went up from the Democratic ranks, and the party attached to the political fortunes of Grover Cleveland. The early date set for the convention surprised them, and they denounced it as an unprecedented piece of political chicanery. They went into the newspapers with their walling and they have held a great mass-meeting at Cooper Union to denounce Hill and his cohorts. Of course, all this has no effect on the Hill program, and, in my judgment, it will not make a particle of difference whether the State convention be held this month or the last week in May. The real contest will not be until the result. Mr. Cleveland has at no time since 1887 had a chance of securing a majority of the electoral college, and the simple reason is that he has no power and no machinery. Mr. Hill's campaign, as planned, is to secure New York—New York Central, and then proceed to control or influence by the fact that the Empire State behind him. Of course the outcry of the so-called Democratic Mugwumps will injure him in the West and South, where he is wanted, and he will probably be the protest here means. By branding Hill as a traitor and penny-pot politician they excite prejudice, but they will not help the cause of Mr. Cleveland much. The average Democratic politician in this part of the country is not a brainless idiot or a stupid man, as a rule, but I think that the majority of them believe Hill's nomination to be a fixed fact. This brings him many adherents, and it may be profitless to say that if he cannot secure the nomination for himself at Chicago he will come very near nominating the man—and that man, it is more than safe to say, will not be Grover Cleveland.

THE CONFEDERATE BORDER STATES. QUANTICO, VA., February 10, 1892. To the Editor of the Dispatch: In your column of "Queries" please answer the following: 1. What was the position of Missouri, Kentucky, and Maryland in relation to the Southern Confederacy? 2. What was the sentiment of the people of Delaware towards the Confederacy? 3. What part had the citizens of West Virginia in the division of the State of Virginia, and what was the sentiment of West Virginians towards the Confederacy? "ISOTHELY."

1. The lawful authorities of all these States were opposed to secession. The people, or a majority of them, were southern sympathizers. 2. The same as that of Maryland, &c. 3. Not much. The strong arm of the Federal Government hewed out that little State; but the majority of its people were always southern sympathizers.

AMELIE RIVES-KOCH. ALBANY, VA., February 10, 1892. To the Editor of the Dispatch: Please tell me how to pronounce the name of the author Amelie Rives—or is it Amely Rives? Also, Dr. Koch—Koch, or Kock? R. A.

Mrs. Rives-Koch's name is spelled Amelie. She was probably named after the French Queen Amelie, wife of Louis Philippe, at whose court her grandfather was the American Minister. The name of the famous German doctor is spelled Koch, and the combination Koch in German has a cultural sound which is very hard for English-speaking people to pronounce, as there is no corresponding sound in the English language.

We suppose Amelie Koch took her name from the pronunciation desired as accurately as they can be rendered in English.

THE FIRST SIGNER. To the Editor of the Dispatch: Please state who was the first signer of the Declaration of Independence, and give his ancestry in what state he lived, and where he is buried.

The first signer of the Declaration of Independence was John Hancock, the president of the Continental Congress. He was the son of Rev. John Hancock, of Quincy, Norfolk county, Mass., who was the son of Rev. John Hancock, a clergyman in the county of Middlesex, Mass. John Hancock, the signer, inherited a large estate from his uncle, Thomas Hancock, who had just educated him at Harvard, and then trained him in his counting house.

John Hancock was born at Quincy January 12, 1737, and died there October 8, 1793. He was probably buried there, though, as he had been buried in Boston, he may have been buried in that city.

REGISTERED THOROUGHBRED STOCK. RICHMOND, VA. To the Editor of the Dispatch: Will you tell me who has charge of the registering of thoroughbred stock, what the cost per head, and what the requisites for registering? Respectfully, J. N. L.

It is necessary for our correspondent to make the kind of stock that he has referred to before any definite answer can be given him.

There are no special headquarters for the general registration of any class of purebred stock. One desiring to register a trotting-horse, J. H. Steiner, secretary American Trotting Register Association, Chicago, Ill., is the person to apply to. If, however, the American Jersey Cattle Club, of New York city, can furnish all particulars.

PASSING RICH. To the Editor of the Dispatch: In your last Sunday's paper there is the following question: "Will you please use the phrase 'passing rich' in the following sentence: 'A man he was to all his country dear, And passing rich with forty pounds a year.'" "Passing" is used as an adjective, etc. Could it not stand for "passing for rich," or does the rest of the poem exclude this interpretation? Please answer in next Sunday's paper and oblige.

Yours respectfully, C. D. "Passing rich" is a strong expression. It means "more than rich."

GAME OF CHECKERS. To the Editor of the Dispatch: I notice in the game of "checkers" that some players place the men on the black squares, while others place them on the white spots. Which is correct? CHECKERS.

According to the "International Encyclopedia" the checker-men may be placed either on the black or white squares. If they are placed on one color in England and on the other in Scotland. But the "double corners" must be, no matter which color you place the men upon, at the right hand of each player.

WHAT ARE SCHOOL-DAYS? LOWEVILLE, VA. To the Editor of the Dispatch: Please tell me if a public-school teacher has the right to teach Saturday in place of a day he has lost? B. D. WOODSON.

The law provides that a school month shall consist of four weeks of five school days each. Saturday is not recognized, in public-school work, as a school-day.

BYRON-MARR COLLEGE. GLEN ALLEN, VA. To the Editor of the Dispatch: Will you please inform a subscriber where the Byron-Marr College for Women is? It is in Montgomery county, Pa., about eighteen miles from the city of Philadelphia. It is conducted by Friends.

"TORQUE." To the Editor of the Dispatch: Be kind enough to give me the definition of torque and greatly oblige. M. C. H. Torque, the French word, means brass ring, or a twisted roll of stuff about the head.

GRAMMATICAL QUESTION. To the Editor of the Dispatch: Is it correct to use the adjective "practical" before the words disposition, inclination, desire, &c., as in the following sentence: "He has not a practical disposition to do right"? C. H. S.

Yes. 2. EYE'S DAUGHTERS. Marion Harland, on page 103 and 48 of her popular work, "Eye's Daughters; or, Common Sense for Maid, Wife, and Mother," says:

"For the aching back—should it below in recovering its normal strength—An Allcock's Porous Plaster is an excellent comfort, combining the sensation of the sustained pressure of a strong, warm hand with certain tonic qualities developed in the wearing. It should be kept over the aching muscles for several days, and in obstinate cases for perhaps a fortnight."

"For pain in the back wear an Allcock's Porous Plaster constantly, renewing as it wears off. This is an invaluable support, because the weight on the small of the back becomes heavy and the aching incessant."

By All Odds. The most generally useful medicine is Ayer's Pills. As a remedy for the various diseases of the stomach, liver, and bowels, these pills have no equal. Their sugar-coated cases are pleasant to take, and preserve their medicinal integrity in all climates and for any reasonable length of time. The best family medicine, Ayer's Pills are also, unsurpassed for the use of travelers, soldiers, sailors, campers, and pioneers. In some of the most critical cases, when all other remedies have failed, Ayer's Pills prove effective.

In the summer of 1881 I was sent to Annapolis hospital, suffering with chronic diarrhea. While there, I became so reduced in strength that I could not walk and was compelled to write everything I wanted to say. I was then having some 25 or 30 stools per day. The doctors ordered a medicine, but I was satisfied would be of no benefit to me. I did not take it, but persuaded my nurse to get me some of Dr. Ayer's Pills. About two o'clock in the afternoon I took six of these pills, and by midnight I was able to get up. In the morning the doctors came again, and after deciding that my symptoms were more favorable, gave me a different medicine, which I did not use, but took four more of the pills instead. The next day the doctors came to see me, and thought I was doing nicely, (and so did I). From that time I took one pill a day for a week. At the end of that time, I considered myself cured and that Ayer's Pills had saved my life. I was then weak, but I had no return of the disease, and gained in strength as fast as could be expected.—F. C. Luce, Late Lieut. 6th Regt. Mass. Vol. Infantry.

"Ayer's Pills are the best I have ever used for headaches, and they act like a charm in relieving any disagreeable sensation in the stomach after eating."

—Mrs. M. J. Ferguson, Fullen, Va. "I was a sufferer from dyspepsia and liver troubles, and found no permanent relief until I commenced taking Ayer's Pills. They have effected a complete cure."—George W. Mowsey, Walla Walla, W. T.

DR. J. C. AYER & CO., Lowell, Mass. Sold by all Druggists and Dealers in Medicine.

BOOK AND JOB WORK NEATLY EXECUTED AT THE DISPATCH PRINTING-HOUSE.

INSURANCE STATEMENTS. (PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF THE STATE OF VIRGINIA.) THE GUARANTEE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA.

ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING THE 31ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 1891. OF THE ACTUAL CONDITION OF THE GUARANTEE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA, MADE TO THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 1280 AND 1281, CODE 1887, REGULATING THE REPORTS OF INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Name of the company in full—THE GUARANTEE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA. Home or principal office of said company—MONTREAL, CANADA. Character of the company, whether fire, marine, or marine insurance company—GUARANTEE COMPANY.

President—SIR A. T. GALT, G. M. G. Vice-President and Managing Director—EDWARD RAWLINGS. Acting Secretary—ROBERT KIRK. Commenced business in the United States—APRIL 1, 1872. Name of the general agent in Virginia—WILLIAM H. PLEASANTS. Residence of the general agent in Virginia—RICHMOND.

CAPITAL. The amount of subscribed capital stock of such corporation. \$250,000 00 The amount of paid-up capital stock of such corporation. 204,000 00 The amount still unpaid for. 46,000 00

ASSETS. The assets of said company, and a detailed statement of how and in what the same are invested: Value of real estate owned by the company. \$2,450,135 00 Loans on bond and mortgage (fully secured and being first liens on the fee simple), value of which not more than one year's interest is due. 961,980 00

Montreal Corporation bonds. \$10,000 00 8,263 00 Montreal City bonds. 10,000 00 8,263 00 Montreal Harbor bonds. 10,000 00 8,263 00 Victoria (B. C.) Water-Works bonds. 10,000 00 8,263 00 Dominion of Canada stock. 2,359 07 2,447 68

Lake Champlain and St. Lawrence Railway preferred stock. 5,000 00 5,050 00 Lake Erie and St. Lawrence railway preferred stock. 1,000 00 1,000 00 Province of Quebec bonds. 10,000 00 11,500 00 City of Montreal bonds. 100,000 00 102,000 00 City of Montreal bonds. 100,000 00 117,400 00 United States Government registered bonds. 15,000 00 15,280 00 City of Richmond (Va.) bonds. 100,000 00 100,000 00 United States Guarantee Company stock. 100,000 00 100,000 00

Total par and market value, carried out at market value. \$27,999 67 \$28,057 68 AMOUNT OF STOCK, BONDS, AND ALL OTHER SECURITIES (EXCEPT SECURED MORTGAGES) HYPOTHECATED TO THE COMPANY AS COLLATERAL SECURITY FOR CASH ACTUALLY ISSUED BY THE COMPANY, WITH THE PAR AND MARKET VALUE OF THE SAME, AND THE AMOUNT LOANED ON EACH.

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